

Intervention: Pneumococcal vaccine for people with asthma

Finding: Insufficient evidence to determine effectiveness

Potential partners to undertake the intervention:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Nonprofits or local coalitions | <input type="checkbox"/> Businesses or labor organizations |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Schools or universities | <input type="checkbox"/> Media |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Health care providers | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local public health departments |
| <input type="checkbox"/> State public health departments | <input type="checkbox"/> Policymakers |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hospitals, clinics or managed care organizations | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: |

Background on the intervention:

Infection with *Streptococcus pneumoniae* is an important cause of pneumonia and other serious illnesses, particularly among those with certain high-risk medical conditions such as asthma. In addition, the presence of pre-existing lung disease is an important predictor of poor outcomes in those with pneumococcal pneumonia.

Findings from the systematic reviews:

This review found very limited evidence to support the routine use of pneumococcal vaccine in people with asthma. A randomized trial of vaccine efficacy in children and adults with asthma is needed.

There was insufficient evidence to determine the effectiveness of routine use of pneumococcal vaccine in people with asthma. Practices that lack sufficient research to support effectiveness should not be confused with ineffective programs. Rather, they should be recognized as programs that have the potential to become evidence-based practices—if properly evaluated. Practitioners are encouraged to monitor the impact of these programs in their communities and report on their findings in order to build a base of knowledge sufficient to reach consensus.

Limitations/Comments:

Only three papers were found for this review, and only one satisfied the inclusion criteria. This paper involved a study population of children with asthma, yet older adults are often victims of pneumonia.

Additional information:

PPV23 Vaccine - www.cdc.gov/nip/vaccine/pneumo/default.htm

References:

Sheikh A, Alves B, Dhami S. Pneumococcal vaccine for asthma. *The Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews* 2002, Issue 1. Art. No.: CD002165. DOI: 10.1002/14651858.CD002165.